

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following **rewritten** paragraph:

~~-- This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/430,793 (Attorney Docket No. PU020487), filed December 4, 2002 and entitled "ENCODING OF VIDEO CROSS FADES USING WEIGHTED PREDICTION", which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.~~

This application claims the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/US03/36413 filed November 13, 2003, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on June 24, 2004 in English and which claims the benefit of United States provisional patent application No. 60/430,793, filed December 4, 2002. --